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# United States Department of Agriculture,

## BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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### JOHNSON GRASS (*Sorghum halapense*).

This is a coarse, perennial grass resembling the common sorghum, to which it is closely related. It produces underground stems or rootstocks abundantly and on this account is very difficult to control. It is a very common grass in the Southern States, where in some localities it becomes a pest. North of the twenty-seventh parallel of latitude it is affected by frosts to such an extent that it is not at all difficult to eradicate. In the South, Johnson grass yields two to three cuttings per year of good hay, which possesses high feeding value and is relished by all kinds of stock, but is rather too laxative to make a good feed for livery horses. Although stock relish it when green, the grass is not well adapted to use for a permanent pasture, as it becomes sod bound very readily, and the yield decreases rapidly.

There is little doubt that Johnson grass could be used to good advantage as an annual grass in certain sections north of Tennessee, since it can be grown as easily as millet and gives a heavier yield of hay of better quality than millet. When used for this purpose it should be sown as near the first of April as possible, at the rate of about 1 to 1½ bushels per acre, as it is very essential that the stand be thick; otherwise the hay is too coarse. Seed may either be sown broadcast or with a press drill on ground that has been well prepared by plowing and thorough harrowing. In parts of Virginia and Maryland two cuttings can be obtained under favorable conditions.



